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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Chapter 5--Section a

From an early period education of the higher and lower grades attracted the attention of the early settlers and a line of pay schools were established, which provided everyone an opportunity of learning; therby, nearly everyone had a chance to learn to read and write.

The first schools that I can find records of were in the settlers' homes. The teacher received free board in the homes of his pupils and would spend a week with one pupil and then move on to the next.

Before the Civil War, there were but few school houses. The schools were generally held in some old building that was abandoned, which would be chinked and daubed with mud and in the pioneer days, the old open fireplaces were used. The windows were frequently made of greased paper and the benches were made of split logs, with pins bored in for legs. The students, patrons and teachers maintained the schools, and the tuition was paid by the patrons of the school on a per capita basis. It is true that the early schools were private in nature, and they were paid for by a group of families who were willing to pay for the tuition and were interested in school activities. The early settlers were anxious that their children learn to read, write, cipher and read the Bible. In all the old schools the first thing in the routine of the work was to read a chapter in the Bible and recite the Lord's Prayer in unison, which was a part of the day's program.

The early schools were called subscription or select

schools. They were usually taught by one of the pioneers who had enjoyed superior educational advantages. The Bible was often used as a text in reading anf Dilworth's Speller as a spelling book text. When shifting from house to house became monotonous, the settlers started building school houses.

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